



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Nanette Barragan
U.S. House of Representatives
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Barragan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

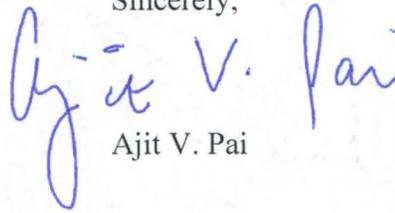
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We've also taken a number of actions during my tenure as Chairman to help connect those on Tribal lands. At the Commission's February Open Agenda Meeting, we adopted the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, which will direct up to approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next generation services. In addition, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to give additional time to Tribal families living in the remote reaches of the Navajo Nation to comply with a certification deadline for the Lifeline program. We must work to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans, and we will continue to pursue common-sense regulatory reforms to close the digital divide on Tribal lands.

Page 2—The Honorable Nanette Barragan

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ellison:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

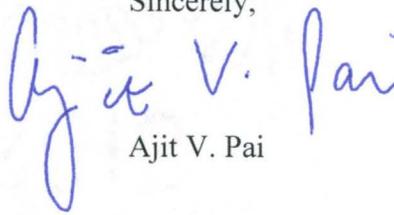
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Dwight Evans
U.S. House of Representatives
1105 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Evans:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

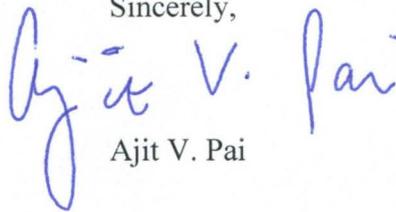
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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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October 23, 2017

The Honorable Walter B. Jones
U.S. House of Representatives
2333 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Jones:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

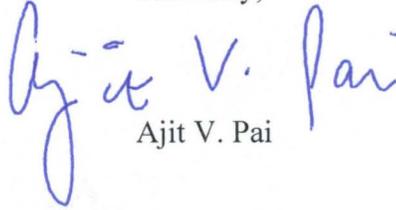
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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Dan Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

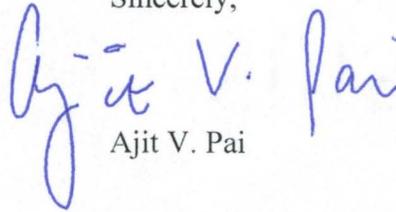
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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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October 23, 2017

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

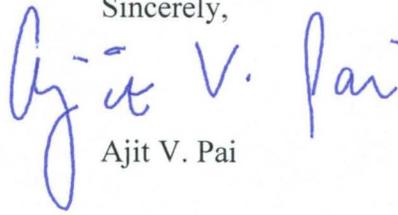
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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

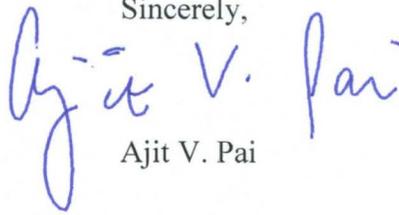
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai

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OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

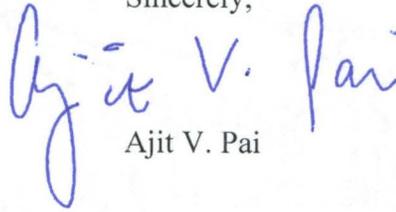
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

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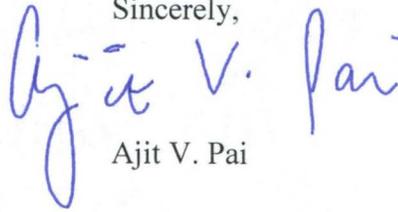
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October 23, 2017

The Honorable Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
U.S. House of Representatives
1339 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Radewagen:

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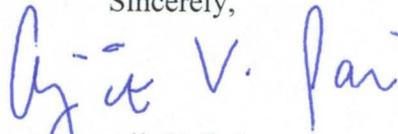
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The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

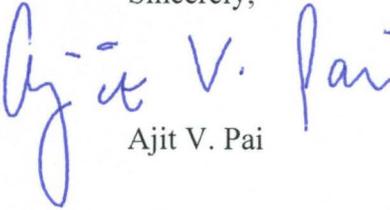
In early February, I circulated to my colleagues an order that would assist rate of return carriers serving Tribal lands in deploying, upgrading, and maintaining modern high-speed networks. As you note, the order recognizes that carriers serving Tribal lands incur costs that other rural carriers do not face, resulting in significantly higher operating expenses to serve very sparsely populated service areas. The proposal I have put before my colleagues would allow carriers serving Tribal lands a greater ability to recover operating expenses, thus improving the financial viability of operating a broadband network serving Tribal lands. I hope that my colleagues will vote in favor of this order and look forward to continue working with them as we move forward on the Commission's efforts to connect those on Tribal lands.

We've also taken a number of actions during my tenure as Chairman to help connect those on Tribal lands. At the Commission's February Open Agenda Meeting, we adopted the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, which will direct up to approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next generation services. In addition, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to give additional time to Tribal families living in the remote reaches of the Navajo Nation to comply with a certification deadline for the Lifeline program. We must work to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans, and we will continue to pursue common-sense regulatory reforms to close the digital divide on Tribal lands.

Page 2—The Honorable Raul Ruiz

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long tail on the "i".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

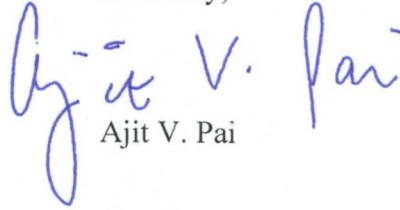
In early February, I circulated to my colleagues an order that would assist rate of return carriers serving Tribal lands in deploying, upgrading, and maintaining modern high-speed networks. As you note, the order recognizes that carriers serving Tribal lands incur costs that other rural carriers do not face, resulting in significantly higher operating expenses to serve very sparsely populated service areas. The proposal I have put before my colleagues would allow carriers serving Tribal lands a greater ability to recover operating expenses, thus improving the financial viability of operating a broadband network serving Tribal lands. I hope that my colleagues will vote in favor of this order and look forward to continue working with them as we move forward on the Commission's efforts to connect those on Tribal lands.

We've also taken a number of actions during my tenure as Chairman to help connect those on Tribal lands. At the Commission's February Open Agenda Meeting, we adopted the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, which will direct up to approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next generation services. In addition, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to give additional time to Tribal families living in the remote reaches of the Navajo Nation to comply with a certification deadline for the Lifeline program. We must work to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans, and we will continue to pursue common-sense regulatory reforms to close the digital divide on Tribal lands.

Page 2—The Honorable Mark Takano

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Norma J. Torres
U.S. House of Representatives
1713 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Torres:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

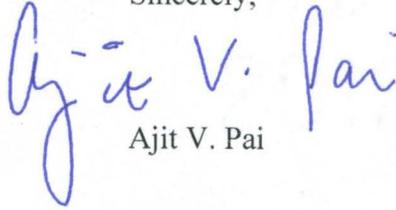
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We've also taken a number of actions during my tenure as Chairman to help connect those on Tribal lands. At the Commission's February Open Agenda Meeting, we adopted the Tribal Mobility Fund Phase II, which will direct up to approximately \$340 million to build out 4G LTE coverage on Tribal lands. I have also asked the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy to coordinate with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau to help direct that funding to reach Tribal members in remote areas that would otherwise be without access to next generation services. In addition, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to give additional time to Tribal families living in the remote reaches of the Navajo Nation to comply with a certification deadline for the Lifeline program. We must work to bring the benefits of the digital age to all Americans, and we will continue to pursue common-sense regulatory reforms to close the digital divide on Tribal lands.

Page 2—The Honorable Norma J. Torres

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Don Young
U.S. House of Representatives
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of a draft order on whether the limitations on operating expenses for which rate-of-return carriers may receive high-cost support should be modified for carriers serving Tribal lands. I share your desire to address the digital divide on Tribal lands, where approximately 40% of the population live in census blocks lacking fixed broadband of 25/3 Mbps. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

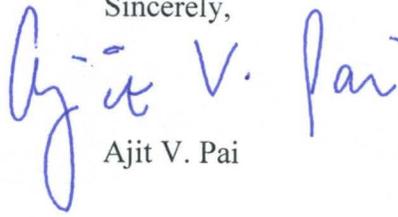
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Page 2—The Honorable Don Young

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Ajit V. Pai